



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

2020 Grand Avenue, Suite 500

Laramie, WY 82070

Phone 307-777-5296

Fax 307-777-6719

Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM NO. 2009- 006

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals
Special Education Directors
Title I Directors
Title III Directors

FROM: Charlene Turner, Director of Alternate Assessment
Standards and Assessment Unit

DATE: January 16, 2009

SUBJECT: WDE-673 Wyoming State Assessment System Exemption Request

IMPORTANT – TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

All students are required to participate in the Wyoming State Assessment System. The system includes the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS), Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students – Alternate (PAWS-ALT) and the Wyoming English Language Learners Assessment (WELLA). However, school administrators, on behalf of the student, may apply for exemption from participation in the Wyoming State Assessment System.

Exemptions must be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Education by March 1, 2009. An exemption is only valid after obtaining written approval by the Wyoming Department of Education. Written approval will be provided by the WDE for those requests that meet exemption criteria in a given category and that include required documentation.

For an exemption request to be considered, it must meet the criteria of one of the three categories listed below and be submitted with current, official documentation. The three participation exemption categories are: **Medically Fragile Students**, **Expelled Students**, and **ELL Students**. All **ELL Students** who meet exemption criteria **must** have an Exemption Request submitted and approved on their behalf in order to be exempt from participating in the PAWS Language Arts tests.

Full descriptions of these exemption categories and requirements for submitting documentation are provided on the form. Please note that the requirements have been updated. The WDE-673 can be obtained under the Forms Inventory link at www.k12.wy.us. Please provide this information to building principals, curriculum coordinators, Special Education Directors, Title 1 Directors, and Title III Directors.

CT:al